

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Pending claims 1, 10, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,327,003 (Vos). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. As to claim 1, nowhere does Vos teach either receipt of an alpha value indicative of how a video signal and a graphics signal are to be combined, nor adjusting of a flicker filter based upon the alpha value. In this regard, the Office Action points to the components of FIG. 3 of Vos that merely show that an on screen display generation interface 30 is connected to an on screen insertion interface 32 that also receives a video signal 36. However, nothing in Vos anywhere teaches receiving an alpha value indicative of how a video signal and a graphics signal are to be combined. Furthermore, there is no teaching in Vos to adjust a flicker filter based upon such a (non-existent) alpha value. Instead, the mathematical filter disclosed in Vos is adapted to perform a particular equation and nowhere is it taught or suggested that this equation be adjusted, and it is certainly not adjusted based upon a missing alpha value. For at least this reason, claims 1 and 17 and their dependent claims are patentable.

Claim 10 and its dependent claims are further patentable as nowhere does Vos disclose a system that includes a controller to associate an alpha value with a signal to be displayed and a processor coupled thereto to adjust a flicker filter based upon the alpha value.

Pending claims 2-9, 11-15 and 18-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Vos in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,144,365 (Young). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. The rejection is improper at least for the same reasons discussed above regarding claim 1. Furthermore, there is no teaching or suggestion to combine Vos, which is directed to on screen displays for a television, with the computer graphics system of Young.

The rejection of claim 2 is further improper, as Young does not teach or suggest comparing an alpha value to a threshold value. In this regard, Young does not teach or suggest an alpha value that "indicates how a video signal and a graphics signal are to be combined" as recited by claim 1. Instead, the alpha value of Young relates solely to graphics images and the blending of two graphics pixels as a foreground and background pixel. Young, 1:22-52.

Further, the comparison in Young of an alpha value to a threshold is not used in any manner to adjust a filter level of a flicker filter. Instead, Young merely teaches that such a comparison is performed to determine whether to reject a pixel without further processing.

Young, col. 5, lines 10-22. For this further reason, dependent claims 2-8, 12, 15, and 18-22 are patentable over the proposed combination.

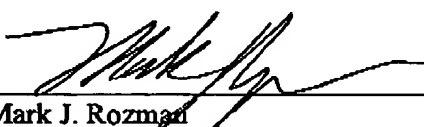
Dependent claim 4 is further patentable, as Young does not teach or suggest dividing a second result (obtained by subtracting an alpha value from a threshold) by an alpha step value (nowhere taught or suggested by the references) to arrive at a result that is then used to adjust a filter level. In this regard, the fact that Young has an alpha blending unit that includes an adder, subtracter, multiplier and divider nowhere teaches or suggests using such components for comparisons with alpha values, threshold values or alpha step values. Nor does Young teach or suggest using its alpha test unit (306), Z compute unit (308) or alpha blending unit (310) to adjust a filter level of a flicker filter. For these further reasons, claims 4 and 20 are patentable.

Dependent claims 8, 15, and 21 are further patentable as none of the references teach or suggest turning off a flicker filter when a graphics signal has an alpha value below a threshold. Dependent claims 11 and 13-14 are further patentable as the cited references nowhere teach or suggest operation of a flicker filter at a plurality of levels.

In view of these remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance and the Examiner's prompt action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 6, 2005


Mark J. Rozman
Registration No. 42,117
TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C.
8554 Katy Freeway, Suite 100
Houston, Texas 77024-1805
(512) 418-9944 [Phone]
(713) 468-8883 [Fax]
Customer No.: 21906